

PEOPLE - L-O

Duxbury Clipper

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SEND OBITUARY NOTICES
to obits@clipperpress.com
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THE DEADLINE is
Monday at noon.

OBITUARIES

Frances Leach, 83, local historian

Frances Ferguson Donahue Leach, 83, a resident of Duxbury, and more recently, at Converse Home in Burlington, Vt., died at the Fletcher Allen Medical Center on Tuesday, August 28, after a period of declining health.

Mrs. Leach was born on December 10, 1923, along with her twin sister, Margaret, in Watertown, Mass., the daughter of the late Kathleen Martin and John Clarke Donahue. She was a graduate of Pearl River New York High School, the University of Vermont, and Bridgewater State College.

During her childhood, her family moved to many towns in New England and New York, as her father engineered the construction of hydroelectric dams to bring electricity to rural areas. Summers were spent on the family farm in Northfield, Vt. After graduating from UVM, she was married on June 17, 1945, to the late Capt. Robert Marden Leach, who had just returned from a tour of duty in Europe during WWII.

Settling in the Boston area, she and Bob raised four children. After helping Bob and his brother start a business, she returned to school, earned a master's degree in education and began a teaching career. Mrs. Leach taught for many years in Kingston and Brockton, Mass., and was instrumental in starting a program for gifted junior high students at West Junior High in Brockton.

When she retired from teaching, she became a noted historian in the Duxbury/Plymouth area, with an expertise in the Pilgrim settlement period. She was a board member and education consultant for Pilgrim Hall Museum in Plymouth. Her research into the life of Myles Standish took her to England to solve the mystery of his true birthplace. She was also a published author.

Mrs. Leach enjoyed traveling and cruising in the Mediterranean, Ireland, Scandinavia, Hawaii, and Central America. She was also passionate about the New

York Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle.

She leaves her daughters, Judy Kaplan Mark of Burlington, and Mary Merriam and her husband Peter Gaveras of Duxbury; a son, Robert M. Leach, Jr. of Fairbanks, Alaska; her twin sister, Margaret C.D. Davis and her family of Northfield, Vt. and a brother, John C. Donahue Jr. and his family of Northfield, Vt. She was also the mother of the late James Ferguson. She also leaves five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

A Mass was held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 1, at the Holy Family Church in Duxbury. Burial followed in the St. Patrick's Cemetery in Rockland. Donations in her memory may be made to the James F. Leach Memorial Fund, McLean Hospital, 115 Mill St., Belmont, Mass. 02478, or to the Education Department of Pilgrim Hall Museum, 75 Court St., Plymouth, Mass. 02360.